

an integral component to the unprecedented success of Blue Diamond.

When Walter Payne was named CEO, he vowed to spend 15 percent of his time in the fields meeting with growers, listening to and addressing their concerns. It was this commitment to open and honest communication that won him national acknowledgment as "CEO Outstanding Communicator of the Year" in 1998, awarded by the Cooperative Communicators Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to my friend, Walt Payne, a truly outstanding member of our community. As CEO, he fostered an atmosphere based on teamwork, open communication and productivity at all levels. As a testament to his success, Payne's first crop as a young marketer at Blue Diamond totaled 145 million pounds. His last crop set a state record at 830 million pounds. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the accomplishments of an extraordinary leader and wish him all the best as he begins a new phase in his life.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 371

#### HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2000*

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, in September Congress ratified H. Con. Res. 371, which resolves that Congress supports the goals and ideas of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Clearly, each Member shares the commitment to keep America's youth drug-free, and return those who have used drugs to a drug-free life. I add these comments in an effort to help achieve this goal.

First, H. Con. Res. 371 states that "26 million Americans currently suffer the ravages of drug or alcohol addiction." This statistic is presumably based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, which finds that roughly 26 million Americans are heavy drinkers or are casual-to-dependent users of one or more illicit drugs. The report does not state that these individuals are suffering from an addiction. The absence of this distinction could result in misdirected program development and misappropriated funding. Affected are those who direct public and private resources; to counselors and treatment professionals who develop protocols for assistance; to employers who strive to maintain drug-free work environments; to the criminal justice system which must be accountable to the public they serve; and to our Nation's families who rely on accurate information, accurately communicated.

H. Con. Res. 371 also states that adolescents who undergo addiction treatment report less use of marijuana, less heavy drinking, and less criminal involvement. Let us hold ourselves and treatment outcomes to a higher standard. While interim goals can be applauded, the fact that youth who receive treatment continue to use drugs—albeit less often—and continue to be involved in criminal activity—albeit less often—cannot become our Nation's standard for success.

Nelba Chavez, Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Ad-

ministration, spoke of the need to provide better focus of the treatment programs that serve young people, when she said that, "few seek help, and those who do often receive treatment that is inappropriate. Many treatment programs are designed for adults and are ill-equipped to meet the needs of adolescents."

Although abstinence from illicit drug use is the central goal of all drug abuse treatment, researchers and program staff involved with adult treatment commonly accept reductions in drug use and criminal behavior as realistic goals. Surprisingly, we are now advised by the National Institute on Drug Abuse that "a good treatment outcome may be a sizable decrease in drug use and long periods of abstinence."

Our Nation's policy goal regarding drugs is the creation of a drug-free America. Specifically, in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, drug abuse is to be curbed by preventing youth from using illegal drugs, reducing the number of users, and decreasing drug availability.

Let us hold this vision of a drug-free America and hold ourselves to this standard. Anything less is a disservice to ourselves, to the adults who currently use drugs and, most certainly, to our most precious resource—America's youth.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ANDREAS COMODROMOS

#### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andreas Comodromos for his outstanding contributions to the Greek community. The Greek Orthodox community will honor Mr. Comodromos at the 65th Anniversary of Evangelismos Tis Theotokou. The parish has chosen to commemorate the event with a special presentation entitled "Remembering Our Past . . . Looking to Our Future."

Mr. Comodromos, the former Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, was born on the island of Cypress in 1949, where he was raised by his parents in the Greek Orthodox faith. There, he attended high school and performed his compulsory military service before gaining employment with the Cyprus offices of the American Life Insurance Co.

Mr. Comodromos and his wife, Anna Zachariades, had their first child, Eliza, in 1974, the same year Turkey invaded Cypress. To realize a better life for himself and his wife and son, Mr. Comodromos and his family immigrated to America, where he could pursue a college education. In the United States, they became members of the Evangelismos Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox community, and in 1978, Mr. Comodromos graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Peter's College with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

In the following years, Mr. Comodromos celebrated the birth of his second child, Demitrios, while working at the international accounting firm Ernst & Ernst. In 1982, he became a CPA and co-founded the accounting firm of Comodromos Associates with his brother Michael. He is currently the president and managing partner.

In addition to his impressive professional and personal achievements, Mr. Comodromos

has served the community through his firm commitment to the cause of justice in Cyprus. He is dedicated to liberating the island from Turkish occupation. He has served on the board of the Cyprus Federation of America, and was elected president for two consecutive terms (1991–1995). Mr. Comodromos has been recognized for his contributions with several awards and honors, including the 1978 Newcomen Society of America Award, election to the National Council of the Order of St. Andrew, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Offikion Archon Dikaiophylax Award.

Mr. Comodromos currently serves as the President of the US-Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Council of Hellenes Abroad of the North and South American Region. He is a member of the Order of AHEPA, the American Institute of CPAs, and the New Jersey Society of CPAs. Mr. Comodromos is actively involved in various business and political endeavors, and continues his commitment to community service at the local and national level.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Andreas Comodromos for his many years of dedicated service to the Greek community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE FAA

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2000*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill calling for a tough, comprehensive review of the Federal Aviation Administration to focus on the critical need to improve aviation safety and reduce airline delays.

We should all be concerned about aviation safety. Air travel has increased dramatically in recent years. Today, more than 600 million Americans take to the skies each year—and that figure is expected to triple to 1.8 billion people a year by 2020.

With this dramatic increase we have seen increases in operational errors among air traffic controllers, increases in near mid-air collisions, and increases in runway incursions.

I am particularly concerned about internal meetings of FAA safety staff that have been reported in the press revealing statements made by top FAA safety officials concerning weaknesses in their oversight.

I want to emphasize that there are thousands of hard-working, dedicated employees at the FAA who understand the important safety mission of their agency. We need to give them a stable and efficient organizational structure under which they can perform their mission critical jobs.

Mr. Speaker, operational errors among air traffic controllers are up significantly as controllers try to cope with increasing traffic all bearing down on crowded hub airports. At the same time these errors are up, the FAA has announced a plan to significantly reduce the number of operational supervisors available to assist and monitor that traffic. These errors have risen by 25 percent in the past two years alone.

In addition, runway incursions continue to go up, raising cries of alarm from the National